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SALT LAKE CITY, MARCH 19, 1909.

CONFERENCE NOTICE.
The Seventy-ninth annual general conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will assemble in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday, April 4, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. A full attendance of the officers and members is hereby requested.

A general Priesthood meeting will be held in the Tabernacle on Monday, April 5, beginning at 6 o'clock p. m.

The first Sunday of April being conference it is suggested that Sunday, March 28, be observed as fastday in Salt Lake, Ensign, Pioneer, Liberty, Granite, and Jordan stakes.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
JOHN R. WINDER,
ANTHONY H. LUND,
First Presidency.

RELIEF SOCIETY CONFERENCE.
The April Conference of the Relief Society will be held in the Salt Lake City Assembly Hall, Friday and Saturday, April 2 and 3, 1909; meetings commencing at 10 a. m. and at 2 p. m.

Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock, an officers' meeting will be held in the Fourteenth ward, at which all stake officers of the society, who can, are expected to be present.

Saturday afternoon at 2 will be the closing meeting of the conference. It is desired that there should be a representation from every stake organization and a large attendance of members.

The General Authorities of the Church, and officers and members of the Y. L. M. I. A. and Primary associations are cordially invited to be present at the conference meetings in the Assembly Hall.

BATHSHERA W. SMITH,
General President.
IDA SMOOT DUSENBERRY,
Counselor.

THE HUNTINGTON PLAN.
The city of Huntington, West Virginia, has adopted a plan of government that is said to be non-partisan, not only in theory but in practice. It is founded upon the Galveston plan, but contains some important additions and modifications.

The plan provides for a citizens' board consisting of sixteen persons from each ward, and a board of commissioners. The commissioner receiving the greatest number of votes at the general election is, by reason thereof, the mayor of the city.

The citizens' board is made large and representative. It is not intended that it shall meet very often; only when necessary to check any wrongful action of the commissioners in the passage of harmful ordinances and franchises. The board is in the nature of a referendum board, but ordinances and franchises become effective unless vetoed by the board. In other words, no action of the citizens' board is required to make an ordinance or franchise effective, but the board's veto renders them ineffective.

Concerning the nomination of candidates, the following provision is made: "It is provided that candidates to be voted for at any municipal election by members of the board of commissioners and members of the citizens' board may be nominated by convention, primary or petition, in the manner and under the provisions now or hereafter prescribed by state laws relating thereto; provided, however, that no political party shall nominate more than three persons for the office of members of the board of commissioners, no two of whom shall be from the same ward, and no more than eight persons in each ward of the city for the office of members of the citizens' board. If any certificate of nomination, or any petition for nomination of candidates for either the board of commissioners or the citizens' board shall contain more names than prescribed in this section for said respective offices, and provided further, that there shall not be printed on any ticket on any ballot to be voted at any municipal election for the election of officers of the city more than three names for the office of member of the board of commissioners nor more than eight names for the office of members of the citizens' board."

The Dallas News, from which this is quoted, explains that the plan teaches the voter to "split" his ticket and vote independently, because although he may vote for four candidates for commissioner, yet he can find only three on his ticket, thereby compelling him to look for the fourth man on some other ticket than his own. The commissioner, when elected, will, for this reason, it is thought, not feel so bound to his party as if elected solely by the voters of his party without the aid of votes from opposing parties. The fact that only two candidates on any one ticket can be elected to the board of commissioners will induce the more independent voters to vote only for two candidates of his ticket and seek the other two on other tickets. And, since the police and fire departments, the main political spoils departments, are placed under civil service, there remains but little inducement to a political party to make the effort to capture the board for political ends.

Many cities of the United States are

at present looking for a system of municipal government that places the control of affairs in the hands of the people and does away with the system of spoils politics and plunder. Many a city has a record of graft, corruption, and bottomless debt, of which it is thoroughly ashamed. But the public conscience is awakening, and one result of this is seen in the earnest efforts at reform in the interest of honesty and a square deal.

Strictly in line with the tendency of municipal reform is the suggestion of Mr. A. L. Weil, president of the Voters' League of Pittsburgh, the organization which brought to light the wholesale graft in the Pittsburgh city government. He believes that one of the most important steps to be taken must be the complete removal of national politics from city elections. This is the opinion of many who have studied closely the problem of municipal government. They know that municipal voting must be made independent if the best results are to be obtained.

MERE ASSUMPTION.

The Tribune in a vicious attack upon legislators who have remained true to the people of Utah and their conscientious convictions, has this to say, among other things: "What is censurable is the assumption that because the Church had made a certain declaration, therefore the Legislature was bound by it and must comply with the Church demand."

This refers to the Conference resolution on the temperance question.

The paper quoted, as usual, misrepresents matters. No one has ever assumed that the Legislature was bound by that resolution, or that the Legislature "must" comply with the Church demand. The presentation of the case in that light is but another malicious attempt at stirring up prejudice against the Church, which, by the way, seems to be the only mission the anti-Mormon sheet has found as an exceedingly poor excuse for its existence. But the Church does not interfere with the Legislature in any shape or manner whatever.

The Church, at the October conference declared itself on a moral question of great importance, and resolved that its officers and members use their influence with the people's representatives in the Legislature to enact legislation closing the saloons and inhibiting Sabbath desecration. It was "assumed" that the officers and members of the Church had a perfect right to use their influence as American citizens, in favor of righteous legislation. That was all that was assumed. The liquor dealers have assumed as much for themselves and their iniquitous schemes, without any objection from any quarter.

Any church has a right to speak upon a moral issue and to give utterance to the views of its members upon such issues. And if the declaration made is right, and in the interest of morality, it is binding upon all connected with the church, legislators too, are morally bound to do what is right. It is binding upon them, not because a church may have declared for it, but because it is right. No man in public life in this Republic is exempt from the duty of doing what is for the best interests of morality. The church to which he belongs may point out what his duty is in a given case, when opinions conflict and interests clash, but it cannot properly compel him to perform that duty. That must be left entirely with his own conscience. So the assumption that the Tribune assumes is nothing but the most flimsy of all assumptions.

OPIMUM AND LIQUOR.

China's war upon the opium traffic is one of the remarkable manifestations of the present operation of the Divine Spirit among the children of men, for the moral and physical uplift of the race. The opium habit is a menace to the Chinese, as intoxicating liquor is to Western nations, and the resistance to its ravages has come as a result of a realization of its dangers.

It seems that from 10 to 20 per cent of the male population is addicted to opium, and that in some localities as many as 80 per cent of the adult males use it, and that many women are the victims of the vice. It has been estimated that opium costs the people the enormous sum of \$200,000,000 a year.

The opium habit, like the drink habit, is easily formed but hard to break. It brings its woes to the high officials and to the poorest laborer. Many wealthy families through this cause, have been brought to extreme poverty. The laboring man who earns from \$4.00 to \$7.00 Mex. per month, will soon spend more than that amount on opium. As a result he will first borrow, then sell to a pawnbroker or others, his clothing his home, his very wife and children to supply that awful desire for the cursed drug. Many of the dense of vice have received their supply of victims by the help of opium. Many have gone the limit until nothing remains but the craving for that which they cannot supply, and then they turn to the opium to bring them death as their only refuge.

The increase of suicides is noted as an alarming feature of the curse it has brought upon the country. A doctor, a resident of Chaotung, in West China, is quoted as having spoken of China as "The Land of Suicides," where there are "500,000 cases a year." In his letter, published in 1898, he said: "In the 30 days, ending June 18th among the persons who came to our home for help there were 19 cases of opium suicide. In a population of 580,000 more than 1,200 cases of opium suicide occurred in 12 months in which the aid of the missionaries was sought. There are also many cases where the aid of the foreigner is not sought. Every year in China half a million people attempt suicide by opium, possibly many more. The majority of the cases are those of women who cannot otherwise escape the tyranny of cruel husbands. The opium makes the suicide possible and easy. It is the cause of poverty, ruin and despair, or of a wife sold into a life of shame, which makes death desirable.

But the war upon opium is hampered

by mercenary interests. In 1842, after the "Opium war," by treaty of Nankin, China, as a result of her attempt to destroy opium in Kwong Tung province, was forced to yield Hongkong, and to pay for the opium seized and destroyed. Then China was compelled to allow the trade to continue. Hongkong became a center of that trade and of smuggling operations. Hongkong still demands the right to sell opium to China. And official correspondence, published in Hongkong during December, 1908, shows that the officials of the British government are supporting that demand, and preventing the Chinese authorities from carrying out regulations which would "seriously restrict and hamper the sale of raw opium in the Kwong Tung Province."

It is almost incredible that any Christian nation can endeavor to prevent China from trying to overcome a vice that threatens to ruin the race, but that seems to be the fact. In China the apologists for the opium trade are fighting hard for the revenue of the traffic, just as the apologists for and beneficiaries of the saloon in the Western world are doing for their selfish interests.

LABOR COLONIES.

The State of New York is trying to deal with the tramp problem on the pattern furnished by the labor colonies of Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland. Leading charitable organizations and large business concerns support the establishment of such colonies.

The idea is to send those convicted of vagrancy to labor colonies, where they will be detained for a longer or shorter period, and teach to reclaim and cultivate the land. They are to be paid for their work and the amount earned turned over to them when released. It is stated that the plan has worked so satisfactorily in the European countries where it has been tried, that vagrancy there is practically unknown.

That the tramp question demands special attention in this country, is evident to all. It is claimed that we have here from 500,000 to 1,000,000 vagrants. The loss suffered through tramps by railroads is estimated at \$25,000,000 annually, which accounts for the interest in the proposed new plan of dealing with them by railroad officials.

Castro is Venezuela's Philip Nolan.

A tax on coffee? That settles it. No more coffee.

England with all her Dreadnoughts dreads Germany.

Speaker Cannon has a way of smoking them all out.

An evidence of confidence—loaning a stranger money.

The session laws of 1909 may be even "practically over."

Sitting on the bleachers is not the way girls bleach their hair.

The more of a dream a woman's boudoir the more expensive it is.

A girl who takes music lessons does not always thereby acquire tone.

"Spring is here," says an exchange. Yes, here tomorrow and gone today.

The session laws of 1909 will be known as the black and blue laws.

Is it any worse to take baths on Sunday than to hold legislative sessions on Sunday?

"After the Salome dance—what?" asks the Globe-Democrat. Generally an encore.

One good way to raise revenue for the government would be to reduce expenses.

In this country it is the school boy who suffers most from the "sleeping sickness."

The duty on lead ore is not disturbed though a great many interested in them were.

At the dinner of the Sons of Eli to President Taft the overture will be "Yale to the Chief."

Hoke Smith says that his favorite diet is chicken. And he is of Georgia, the land of "possums."

A man may have a wrong reason for being right but he cannot have a right reason for being wrong.

The Payne tariff bill may yet be to President Taft what the Wilson-Gorman bill was to President Cleveland.

Fine tribute that of President Taft to the memory of Grover Cleveland. The great best appreciate the great.

It is announced that on his African trip Colonel Roosevelt will shave himself. May he have no closer shaves while in the Dark Continent!

Charles M. Schwab says that the new tariff bill is too drastic. Andrew Carnegie said, writing of the tariff, that the evidence of interested parties was not to be relied upon.

PETROSINO.

New York Commercial.

The probability is that the married police detective, Lieutenant Joseph Petrosino, was close to being right in his notion that there is no regularly organized and maintained society that is responsible for all the so-called "black-hand" outrages and attempts to blackmail, extortion and other crimes but that individuals or small groups of conspirators use the names of and devise symbols for a criminal organization largely imaginary; and it was toward explaining why these terrorists have multiplied and grown bolder and bolder in their operations, why they have conspired successfully in so many instances and why so few of them comparatively have been run to cover and brought to punishment, for an organization, with branches and agents and a "system," would be very likely now and then to accidentally disclose some of its secrets and the machinery or to become the victim of some traitorous member, thus permitting the police authorities to

"round up" the society and its membership and eventually to break the system up entirely; but one man reaching all the way to the "black-hand" device and methods has no secrets but his own and nobody's treachery to fear.

New York World.

New York has been fooling long enough with the blackmatters and assassins who terrorize Italian and other immigrants in the city. It is not too late for the Aldermen to recede from their position as protectors of dangerous criminals. If they should serve belated notice even now, by giving Gen. Bingham a secret-service fund, that the whole community propose to make war on this class of men, and not leave the work to private generosity, it would have an excellent moral effect. Nothing so discourages crime conspiracies as the knowledge that any one of the conspirators may be feathering his nest by secretly betraying his fellow-conspirators. Whatever the means taken, the gentry "black-hand" letters and the athlete and the bomb must be put down.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

George F. Parker, in his second paper on Cleveland, in the March McClure's, gives the first authentic story of the remarkable campaign which elected him to the presidency a second time. Prof. M. A. Rosanoff describes the experiments made by scientists, which show, with the exactness of mathematics, the effects of alcohol on all human activities; J. A. Conant, the artist, tells of his experiences in painting a portrait of Lincoln; T. R. Mac-Meehan describes the county where Roosevelt will hunt in South Africa, and James I. Ford contributes a paper on "Our National Stage." Mrs. Humphrey Ward's great novel, "Marriage à la Mode," is continued, and the number contains the following short stories: "Bibi Steinfield's Hunting," by Eleanor Stuart; "The Reformation of Jack Ketch," by James Hopper; "Mrs. Sweeney's Vengeance," by Charles R. Barnes; "The Fountain Light," by Fielding Ball; "The Vacant Road," by George Kibbe Turner; "The Strength of the Law," by F. J. Louriet, and "The Reckoning," by Robert Lounsbury Black—41-50 E. 23rd St., New York.

President William D. Witt Hyde in his article in the Homiletic Review for March gives a concrete example of what is known as the "Case System" (see February Review). This article is on "The Attitude of the College and the College Man toward Immorality," and refers to a particular student who was recently removed from Bowdoin College on account of immorality. Professor George B. Eager, of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, contributes an article on "Current and Christian Ideas of Progress." He takes the ground that progress "is rooted in, and conditioned by the new birth from above." The president of Middlebury College, Vermont, John M. Thomas, in a noteworthy article entitled "Faith and Old Testament Criticism," says that "if good people fully understood the advantages to religious thinking, to practical piety, and to the lines of defense of the Christian view of life, from the change of attitude, they would thank God for this revolution of opinion as devoutly as they now thank Him for the missionaries." "Relations of Babylonian and Old Testament Culture," by Dr. Konig, of Bonn University, Germany, is the third in the series. This article deals with "the controvertible connections between Babylon and the Bible with regard to primitive history." "A Paradox in Personality," is the title of an article which will be eagerly read, if for no other reason than that it deals with the religious philosophy and political apologies of ex-Premier Balfour, the present leader of His Majesty's opposition in the House of Commons.—Funk & Wagnalls Company, 44-50 East 23rd Street, New York.

Gunter's Magazine occupies a unique and popular field in the magazine world by devoting its 160 pages of reading to up-to-date stories of romance and adventure, fully illustrated. The March number is about the "best yet" issue of the magazine. It is notable particularly for the pleasing variety of the stories and the quality of uninterlarded entertainment, the giving of a thrill of pleasure to the reader, is evident throughout. Besides a complete novel, the March number contains installments of two serial novels, eight short stories, in addition to the usual departments of verse and humor. The cover design is by Charles Hope Proctor, a striking frontispiece is from the brush of J. A. Cady, equal to most artists. The contributors are H. Rider Haggard, Roy Norton, Rafael Sabatini, Eleanor M. Ingram, Leslie Stuart, Allan Updegraff, Philip Jacques, Lillott McClung, W. W. Aulick, Alan Gordon, Ruth Hutton, Fred Jackson, Margaret Erskine, and Herbert Wyndham-Gittens.—78-83 Seventh Ave., New York.

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This will be the first time the great Marathon has been seen in Salt Lake. The racers will get one-half of the gate receipts, which doubt will run close to the \$1000 mark. This was necessary in order to induce the outside talent to come long distances to the race. However, we bank on Salt Lake boys giving a good account of themselves in this race.

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